

Contra Costa County leaders agree to take pay cuts equal to county employees"

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MARTINEZ -- Supervisors agreed today to cut their own compensation to match any reductions Contra Costa's employees agree to in their ongoing labor negotiations.

Supervisors, elected and appointed department heads would match the cuts for the duration of the labor pacts.

"We all have to make a sacrifice at every level of this organization," supervisor John Gioia of Richmond said.

Most of the county's labor units have been in months of negotiations.

"We're pleased. It sends the right message to the rank-and-file members that the board is prepared to make sacrifices too," said Rollie Katz of Public Employees, Local 1, the county's largest employee union.

Board Chairwoman Susan Bonilla of Concord said the gesture sent an important message throughout the county.

"We're in a time of great financial crisis," Bonilla

said. "It's very appropriate for the board to clearly express their intent to take part in what we're asking of others."

As for how negotiations are going?

"We're in a real critical stage, so I don't have any details," Katz said. "But we're making good progress."

In a controversial December 2006 vote, supervisors raised their own salaries by 60 percent, or about \$36,000 annually, to reach comparable county leader levels.

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